

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-20 PC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 EUR-25 CU-05 DRC-01

/164 W

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R 270900Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3975

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, NI

SUBJECT: PROGRESSIVES CALL FOR DIALOGUE WITH BLACK AFRICA

REF: LAGOS 7045 (NOTAL)

1. RECENT TRIP TO NIGERIA AND OTHER BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES BY PROGRESSIVE PARTY MPS EGLIN AND VAN ZYL SLABBERT RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE IN ENGLISH-SPEAKING MEDIA BUT WAS GENERALLY DENIGRATED OR IGNORED BY AFRIKAANS PRESS.

2. IN PARLIAMENTARY ADDRESS AUGUST 22, COLIN EGLIN DREW UPON IMPRESSIONS GAINED FROM TRIP AND URGED SAG TO LOOK BEYOND "BLUSTER" AND "EMOTIONALISM" OF BLACK POLITICAL RHETORIC TO ESTABLISH MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE WITH INCREASINGLY PRAGMATIC BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS. EGLIN ARGUED THAT SAG TOO OFTEN CONCENTRATES ON OAU REVOLUTIONARY STATEMENTS STRESSING UNITY OF BLACK AFRICA WHILE IGNORING REAL HETEROGENEITY OF

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CONTINENT. SAG ALSO COMMITTING "FATAL ERROR" IN EQUATING

AFRICAN NATIONALISM OR ANTI-COLONIALISM WITH COMMUNISM.
LATTER ONLY SERVES TO GIVE COMMUNISM AND UNDESERVED RESPECT-
ABILITY IN EYES OF BLACK AFRICA.

3. ACCORDING TO EGLIN, "CLEARLY WHAT IS DESIRABLE IS
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONTACTS." DIALOGUE MUST BE BUILT
UPON ATTITUDINAL CHANGES IN SA WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE WHITES
TO VIEW SELVES AS "WHITE AFRICANS" AND NOT MISPLACED
EUROPEANS. IN ADDITION TO ESTABLISHING SUCH AN IDENTITY,
SAG MUST MAKE CLEAR ITS POLICY OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN
LINGERING COLONIAL PROBLEMS, I.E., PATS AND RHODESIA, AND
SET TIMETABLE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA.
DIALOGUE WILL BEST BE FOSTERED BY GOVERNMENT ACTIONS IN SA SOCIETY
DESIGNED NOT SIMPLY TO IMPROVE INTERNATIONAL IMAGE BUT TO EFFECT
CHANGES WHICH ARE "ESSENTIAL IF WE WANT TO ENJOY GOODWILL,
COOPERATION, LOYALTY OF BLACK AND BROWN CITIZENS OF
SOUTH AFRICA."

4. EGLIN ARGUED IN RATHER MODERATE TONE THAT WHAT IS NEEDED
IN SOUTH AFRICA IS "NOT A RADICAL RESTRUCTURING" OF SOCIETY
BUT A CHANGE IN DIRECTION AND FIRM COMMITMENT TO RID NATION
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. IN ADDITION TO APPLAUDING PM
VORSTER'S MAY 29 STATEMENT OF SAG NON-INVOLVEMENT IN
MOZAMBIQUE AFFAIRS, EGLIN ALSO PAID COHPLIMENT OF A SORT TO
PM BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT MANY BLACK AFRICANS HAVE "SNEAKING
RESPECT" FOR VORSTER WHO IS ALLOWING "APARTHEID TO CRUMBLE
IN AN ALMOST NATURAL WAY."

5. COMMENT: IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER MODERATE
APPROACHESBY EGLIN WILL HELP HIM SUCCEED IN HIS AIM OF
GETTING MESSAGE ACROSS TO SAG. AFTER TRIP EGLIN AND
HELEN SUZMAN TOOK TO SEVERAL BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN
1971, VORSTER, WHO WAS FURIOUS AT WHAT HE SAW AS THEIR
MEDDLING IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, GAVE INSTRUCTIONS THAT NO
ONE IN SAG, ESPECIALLY DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
WAS TO DISCUSS TRIP WITH EGLIN OR SUZMAN. HOWEVER, AFTER
HIS SPEECH LAST WEEK, EGLIN WAS APPROACHED BY DEPMIN BANTU
ADMINISTRATION PUNT JANSON, WHO COMPLIMENTED EGLIN ON
SPEECH, ALTHOUGH STATING HE DISAGREED WITH SOME OF ITS
POINTS. ENCOURAGED, EGLIN HAS TOLD US HE PLANS TO SEEK
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MEETING WITH FONMIN MULLER OR OTHER DFA OFFICIALS TO
RELATE IMPRESSIONS HE GAINED FROM HIS LATEST TRIP TO BLACK
AFRICAN COUNTRIES.
HURD

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